

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BLOCK  
HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1961

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Block High School Class of 1961 as they celebrate their 50 year reunion. The alumni will observe this momentous occasion on Sunday, June 18, 2011.

The 1961 class was a cohesive and talented group who became doctors, nurses, elected officials, teachers, business owners, pharmacists, law enforcement personnel and investigators, and some have proudly served our country in uniform. Moreover, of the 43 classmates who graduated on May 18, 1961, only five are no longer with us.

This group of alumni is undoubtedly dedicated to each other, and they have gathered for several reunions throughout the decades since their graduation from the Jonesville, La. school. This reunion will surely be another success as they come together to commemorate each other and the significant and memorable occasions that have taken place throughout their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Block High School Class of 1961 as they gather for their 50 year reunion. I know it will be a joyous celebration.

IN HONOR OF BISHOP ANTHONY M.  
PILLA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Bishop Emeritus Anthony M. Pilla, the 2011 recipient of the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus' Four Eagles Award. Bishop Pilla is being honored for his many years of service and commitment to the Saint Stanislaus community.

Bishop Anthony Pilla was born in Cleveland on November 12, 1932. He attended John Carroll University and went on to be ordained a Catholic Priest within the Cleveland Diocese in 1959. On June 30, 1979, Pope John Paul II named him Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland. In 1980, he was named Apostolic Administrator of the Cleveland Diocese, and became the ninth Bishop of Cleveland on January 6, 1981. He was elected president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1995 and served in that position for three years. He served as Bishop until his retirement in 2006.

Bishop Anthony Pilla is being honored for his outstanding record of dedication to the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus in Cleveland, Ohio. As Bishop of Cleveland, he advised Fr. William Gulas regarding the Church's renovations. He was responsible for achieving the Church's status as a shrine, thus opening the doors to thousands of visitors. He was instrumental in expanding Cleveland Central Catholic High School, which is located on St. Stanislaus Church's campus, and worked with community members on countless development and revitalization efforts. Even since his retirement, he has remained an active mem-

ber of the St. Stanislaus community. For these reasons, the St. Stanislaus community is awarding Bishop Emeritus Anthony Pilla the Four Eagle Award, named for the legendary four eagles that protected the body of the martyred St. Stanislaus.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Bishop Emeritus Anthony M. Pilla as he receives the Four Eagles Award for his devotion and dedication to the parish and community of the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus in Cleveland, Ohio.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL TEACHER  
APPRECIATION WEEK

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our nation's teachers during National Teacher Appreciation Week, which is being held this year May 1st-7th.

This is a time to express our thanks and admiration for the more than 3 million teachers in the United States. I encourage everyone to express their appreciation for those teachers who have touched their lives or the lives of their children.

Teachers are heroes in our communities, shaping the next generation of great minds. No great leader, scientist, or artist would be where they are today without the influence of caring and dedicated teachers.

Thurgood Marshall once said, "None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. We got here because somebody—a parent, a teacher, an Ivy League crony or a few nuns—bent down and helped us pick up our boots."

There is perhaps no other occupation that influences the fabric of our society more than teachers, and we are fortunate to have this week dedicated to recognizing their contributions.

I am particularly proud of our teachers from my home state of Texas—serving as motivators and mentors for our future leaders. I remain dedicated to working in Congress to ensure that Texas teachers and all teachers have the resources necessary to successfully prepare our Nation's youth for a successful future.

CONGRATULATING MATTHEW  
WICKS

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Matthew Wicks for being a first prize winner of C-SPAN's Student Cam competition. Matthew created a fantastic video entitled "After the Storm" which details the tragedy of one of the worst tornadoes in Iowa history. On May 25, 2008, the community of Parkersburg, Iowa was hit by an EF-5 tornado with winds of over 200 mph. This tornado destroyed the Parkersburg community.

Matthew's video highlights the successes and challenges faced by the Aplington Par-

kersburg community as they worked with the federal government to obtain disaster relief funding. Matthew did an excellent job of detailing the struggles of the Parkersburg community while seeking disaster funding. While the community did receive disaster relief funding, there are many challenges they still face today as they continue to work with FEMA.

Matthew's video illustrates the struggles that so many communities face when dealing with the aftermath of a natural disaster. I'm proud to have Matthew as one of my constituents and I congratulate him on his success. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

COMMENDING THOSE RESPON-  
SIBLE FOR THE OSAMA BIN  
LADEN OPERATION

**HON. ALBIO SIRE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, late Sunday night, we learned that the United States had successfully captured the mastermind behind the horrific attacks of September 11th, and today I rise to congratulate President Obama, the Navy SEALs, and all the men and women of our military and intelligence community on a successful mission. Osama bin Laden had been on the run for nearly 10 years, but in the end, he was not able to evade the tireless pursuit of the United States.

President Obama made the courageous decision to send U.S. Navy SEAL Team 6 on a mission to Osama bin Laden's compound in Pakistan, and within forty minutes, our ten year ordeal was ended. In this short period of time, the SEALs were even able to collect intelligence to further aid the United States in its ongoing fight against terrorism.

I commend the heroism of all those who participated in this expertly designed and executed operation, and I applaud President Obama's tough decision to move forward with this operation. Osama bin Laden has been brought to justice.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE RE-  
TIREMENT OF ANN COMISKEY  
FROM THE TROY COMMUNITY  
COALITION AFTER A DECADE AS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Ann Comiskey on the occasion of her retirement from the Troy Community Coalition after nearly 10 years of dedicated and passionate service to the community as its Executive Director.

Ms. Comiskey's 38-year career has been one of advocacy and service for causes and programs which have impacted countless individuals in communities across Southeast Michigan. In her role with the Michigan Department of Social Services, Ms. Comiskey provided key support to many residents of Wayne County. After 10 years of dedicated service in that role, Ms. Comiskey then joined

the Highland Park School District, where she worked with at-risk youth and adults to ensure they were able to complete their primary education via alternative programs. In her time with the School District, Ms. Comiskey demonstrated strong leadership skills, developing the Job Club program, which aided high-risk students in their professional development. As part of this work, Ms. Comiskey developed an in-depth knowledge of substance abuse treatment and prevention programs, which has greatly aided in her work with the Troy Community Coalition, when she joined in 2002 as its Executive Director.

As a Troy resident, Ms. Comiskey's service to her community began long before she joined the Coalition. Her volunteer work includes involvement in the Troy Chamber of Commerce and the Troy Women's Association, of which she is a Lifetime Member. In recognition and appreciation of her volunteer advocacy within the community, she was selected as Troy's Distinguished Citizen in 2000. Additionally, she also serves on the advisory board for the Michigan Nonprofit Association and is Co-Chair of the Prevention Coalition of Southeast Michigan.

In her role as Executive Director of the Troy Community Coalition for nearly the last decade, Ms. Comiskey has continued to build on the Coalition's nationally recognized track record of substance abuse prevention in the community. Under her leadership, the Coalition has continued to bring all sectors of the Troy community together to promote positive social norms and implement programs to advocate for changes which create a stronger and healthier substance free community. With her strong stewardship of the Coalition, Ms. Comiskey has become nationally recognized within the substance abuse prevention community and in 2006 she was designated Advocate of the Year by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the invaluable contributions Ms. Comiskey has made to both the residents of Troy and the greater community of southeast Michigan. While I know she will be sorely missed by all who work with her, she will undoubtedly have many years of productive volunteer service to our community to come.

#### RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF REASON

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thursday, May 5, 2011 as the 2011 National Day of Reason.

The National Day of Reason, observed by millions of people in this country and around the world since 2003, celebrates the application of reason and the positive impacts it has had on humanity. Reason and rational discourse have the power to improve living conditions around the world and cultivate intelligent, moral, and ethical interactions among people.

Reason and rational thinking have made our country great. The Constitution of the United States of America is based upon the philosophies developed during the historical Age of Reason and the idea that citizens engaging in

rational discourse and decision-making can govern themselves. The Constitution also contains a strong separation of church and state, making it clear that government should continue to be built on reason.

Our nation faces many problems—ending two wars, creating jobs, educating our children, tackling our budget, and protecting our safety net. Although the gravity of these issues may drive many to prayer, the way we will solve them is through the application of reason.

The National Day of Reason is also about taking time to improve our communities—whether that means holding a blood drive or collecting items for the local food bank. It is also about ensuring that our government represents citizens of all beliefs and backgrounds.

I encourage everyone to join in observing this day and focusing upon the employment of reason, critical thinking, the scientific method, and free inquiry to the resolution of human problems and for the welfare of human kind. It is the duty and responsibility of every American to promote the development and application of reason.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. ROBERT FOULKROD

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. Robert M. Foulkrod, a writer, life coach, and spiritual awakening researcher who passed away on May 2, 2011.

Mr. Foulkrod was born on May 8, 1924 in State College, Pennsylvania. He eventually moved to Dover, New Hampshire where he attended high school. After high school, Robert served with the U.S. Army, climbing the ranks from private to sergeant. He later earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at University of New Hampshire in 1961. Upon completing his education, Robert again joined the armed forces and served with the U.S. Air Force as a lieutenant performing research on aircraft armament systems.

Robert had very successful careers in electronic engineering and career counseling. As a mechanical engineering section manager with Sanders Associates, Inc., Mr. Foulkrod researched, designed and produced several new technologies and systems. During his tenure as an electronic engineer Robert was a member of the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. After years as an electronic engineer, Robert changed careers and began working for Honeywell Computer Company as their hospital systems marketing manager. As marketing manager, he developed and performed inspirational training to hospital computer systems salespeople.

Later, Mr. Foulkrod would work as a career change counselor with Bernard Haldane Associates. He served as a personal coach to people aspiring to change career paths. In addition to his influence as a counselor, Mr. Foulkrod was a revered researcher in spiritual awakening. He dedicated years of his life to research and published several articles with the United States Psychotronics Association. He also authored a number of books on the

subject including Visit Boosting Friends and The Game of Awakening.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Mr. Robert M. Foulkrod, who served the country bravely and inspired many throughout his life. I offer my condolences to his life partner, Barbara Hero, three children, family, and friends.

#### HONORING MR. TOM BRIAN'S DISTINGUISHED CAREER

#### HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tom Brian, former Chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners. Chair Brian retired after 12 years with Washington County, Oregon, and more than 30 years of service to our community.

Tom embarked on an exemplary term as Chair of the Washington County Commission in 1998. Over the next 12 years, Tom spearheaded numerous projects, including the establishment of L.L. "Stub" Stewart State Park and the opening of the Westside Express Service (WES) Commuter line. Tom was a noted listener and consensus builder who focused on the needs of his constituents and worked tirelessly to address their issues. He approached his work with integrity and a true sense of dedication.

Tom's foresight helped make Washington County an attractive place to live and do business. His leadership on projects like the Scoggins Dam raise will be missed. Tom has encouraged and empowered his community to continue the work he started and I know his spirit of service will continue to inspire all citizens of Washington County.

Former Oregon Governor Tom McCall said, "Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are people who say, this is my community, and it is my responsibility to make it better." Tom Brian truly is an American hero, for he has devoted much of his life to making his community better.

It is an honor to recognize Chair Brian for his service and for providing a heroic example to us all.

#### REMEMBERING FIRE CHIEF MATT AKER

#### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the tragic loss of Fire Chief Matt Aker of Portland, Indiana.

Chief Aker began his career in public service as a volunteer with the Portland Fire Department in July of 1997. He joined the force full time in 2002, was appointed Assistant Fire Chief in 2005, and then served as Fire Chief.

Chief Aker's list of accomplishments and certifications are extensive and include: EMS-First Responders, Fire Inspector I and II, Fire Investigator I, Technical Rescue Awareness, Fire Officer I, Ice Rescue, Rope Rescue, Hazardous Material Incident Command, Hazmat